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Fallen trees and debris from an avalanche and hurricane-force winds that flattened Bridal Veil Falls resort block the Provo River.

CANYON

Owner wonders if Bridal Veil can ever get back into the flow

Debris clogs river. Future looks uncertain for devastated resort.

By Dennis Romboy
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PROVO CANYON — A massive chunk of ice and rubble at the base of Bridal Veil Falls takes the ripple out of the rushing Provo River as it unnaturally pools under a mangled bridge.

But the thunderous avalanche that oblit-

erated a gift shop, splintered the aerial tram house and buried a railroad caboose snack shop in January has stilled more than the river.

As local government officials discuss cleaning out the debris before it impedes spring runoff, resort owner David S. Grow wonders if Bridal Veil Falls resort will ever be resurrected.

A weathered "Skytram Operation Instructions Manual" lying in a trash heap next to the crushed tram house might not

be consulted again. The 35-year-old tram won't ascend the 1,228-feet past the falls to the mountaintop this year. Or any year, for that matter.

"I think there's clearly that possibility," Grow said.

Grow hasn't spent much time at the barren resort since the snowslide.

"When I think about Bridal Veil, I think of the way it used to be. When I get up there, I think, 'This is history. It will never be the same again,'" he said.

At least the main attraction — water shrouding the mountain's rocky cliffs like a bridal veil — hasn't changed.

Grow, whose family bought the resort in 1974, has no plans or money to rebuild. Damage was estimated at \$1 million. He

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...application lessons, and he has an ability to make students feel successful.

● **Janell Stockman**, Crescent Elementary. Stockman builds students' self-esteem and confidence through personal notes, parent contact and by attending ballgames and recitals.

in its 99th anniversary

● **Lols Iverson**, St. George, former member of the SUU Board of Trustees and county Republican Party chairwoman.

● **Carl Jensen** of the Utah State Office of Education, Salt Lake City, one of the creators of the Utah Center for Rural Life.

● **Carvel Magelby**, executive director of the Six County Association of Governments, Richfield.

● **Albert Nickle**, Delta, who operated an ambulance service and mortuary and has been active in civic affairs.

● **Leatha G. Prestwich**, Cedar City, who has been active with the Cedar City Art Exhibit Committee and other arts, music, drama and recreation groups.

● **John G. Roberts**, Richfield parks and recreation director and head of the South Region of the Utah Summer Games since 1988.

● **Ramona Stubbs**, Parowan, a major force in community music and theater for 50 years.

● **Mary Wiseman**, mayor of Milford.

ed to call Angelyn N. Hutchinson or Chuck

could develop a computer program that would then allow people to do their own authorship studies, but we're not there," Reynolds said.

Some BYU researchers have used wordprint analysis to prove the Book of Mormon, regarded as scripture from people who inhabited the North American continent, was written by a number of authors and could not have been

... hopes to earn the right to be a peer leader. He started with the group last year to earn a merit badge for Scouts. He stayed on because he now loves gardening.

The program is for youths 12 to 18. When a youth puts in enough time and shows enough dedication to become a peer leader, the program pays a stipend. Last summer, 10 youths who worked hard became shareholders and split the profits from the sale of the vegetables at the downtown Farmer's Market.

Thursday, the wind was blowing hard as the youths stood with project coordinator Jennifer Hansell to survey the garden. Last October, they planted cover crop to replenish the nutrients in the soil. Jones dug up garlic to see how well it fared over winter, while Osborne checked spinach and sage. Hansell tagged along, asking questions designed to show how much he and the others have learned, from the best ground covers (rape, fetch and rye) to the most popular tomato (Cherokee purple).

The youths collect seeds and germinate them for the next year's crop. They learn about the seasons, create compost piles, plot what

they will plant, then tend and harvest their crops.

The "Tomato Garden" is a large corner lot that Wasatch Community Gardens wants to buy. So far they've raised more than \$35,000 toward the purchase with community donations, but they're running out of time. If they can't buy it, they'll be back to searching each season for a new piece of land to use.

Half the "Tomato Garden" is rented by individuals who can use a section for \$25 a growing season and decide what they want to plant. That includes tools, water (it's on a timer) and some of the seeds. The community plots are popular and anyone interested should call right away.

The other half belongs to the youth program. Peer leaders decide what will be planted. But it's a huge effort that relies on groups like the YWCA and Artek to provide youths who want to learn about gardening. More than 200 youths participated last year.

Wasatch Community Gardens seeks more such agencies. "We need organizations that have their

own vans," Hansell said. Some of the members from the different projects become so intrigued with gardening that they stay on and peer leaders.

Director Nini Rich is the Wasatch Community outreach. It launched a Lincoln Elementary and "hope garden" with students who passed out fliers to help to protect the garden from being dropped. Classes at the garden have grow labs.

"Our mission statement is on cultivating individual and neighborhood unity, working with kids to teach responsibility. And we create partnerships and collaborations with agencies and schools to bring them into their programs," Rich said.

Plots are available in the Fairpark garden, as well as on 400 East between 600 South and the Marm area at 222 W. 600 North. For more about the program or to get a patch of ground, call 358-2121 ext. 2.

TRACKS

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of San Francisco-Oakland and Seattle.

Thus the support for a hostile bid by Montana Rail Link, based in Missoula, to buy Union Pacific's old Denver & Rio Grande Western tracks between Kansas City and the San Francisco Bay area.

"What we're saying is that the merger of UP and SP has some good features, but it has one very big problem too," said Fred Simpson, executive vice president of Montana Rail. "And that's competition."

"The concern is the fee (for trackage rights) would be too high and if it is, it's a disincentive for that carrier to come in here," said Jordan.

Utah businesses with an interest in freight rates range from numerous coal-mining enterprises throughout the state's mountainous regions to central-Utah agricultural operations like Moroni Feed and Circle K Farms.

"Our goods travel far and wide . . . and this could have an enormous effect (on shipping costs)," said Jordan.

Union Pacific spokesman John Bromley dismissed that concern, however, insisting Burlington

"We do not want Montana Rail Link on our line," said Bromley, adding that Union Pacific would like to see the upstart's play for a Klamath City-San Francisco line.

Union Pacific's proposed merger, worth \$5.4 billion, was approved by the three-member Surface Transportation Board in Aug. 12, and has set a deadline of March 29 for public input.

Simpson said Montana Rail is scrambling to file a motion to force Union Pacific to sell the Kansas City-San Francisco line. Both sides have representatives in Washington, D.C., but Simpson said

FALLS

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didn't have avalanche insurance. Grow said the resort wasn't a money-maker. Profits went back into sprucing it up and maintaining the Swiss-made tram.

State legislators and tourism officials have contacted Grow about government stepping in. So far, it has been just talk. A mild effort to raise some private money hasn't netted anything.

While Grow ponders the resort's future, local officials have a more immediate problem: What to do with avalanche fallout in the Provo River.

"There are barrels and cans of unknown substances that we have to get out of the water," said Lt. Dick Casto, Utah County sheriff's emergency services director. Some river water is diverted for drinking.

The snowslide, along with hurricane-force wind, toppled a steel railroad car into the water. Uprooted trees, boards and other building leftovers clog the river. The river bored a hole through a thick foundation of ice that settled over it. The typically swift water is reduced to trickle perpendicular to the waterfall.

A bottleneck at Bridal Veil Falls could force flooding as mountain snow begins to thaw and dribble into the river.

"It's not a real serious problem, but it's one we need to get fixed before the spring runoff," Casto said. Also, the irrigation season typically begins about April 15.

Provo city and Utah County are monitoring the river and the quarter-mile-long glacier that settled over it. No one knows how much debris lies frozen in the ice.

"The problem is that area does not see sunlight until midsummer," said Merrill Bingham, Provo city water resources director.

The various entities that hold an interest in the river are hashing over who's responsible for cleanup and who's going to pay for it. The resort lies in Utah County.

Bingham said it's likely the city will help pull out some garbage.

City crews annually spring-clean the river as it flows through Provo. Some of the debris could find its way to Provo as the ice melts.

Grow, the resort owner, said he doesn't believe he has a legal obligation to clean up the river. "I don't know if I'm any more responsible than anybody else. We feel a call to do it," he said.

Grow hired a crane operator to pull the boxcar out of the river Thursday, and he is encouraging volunteer cleanup days every weekend this spring. Meanwhile, he holds out hope that the resort will be rebuilt someday.

"We are open to enthusiasm and vision from any source. We don't think Bridal Veil is ours. We think it belongs to the community," he said.